



THE JEWISH DAILY

# FORWARD

SHA'AR ZAHAV

שער זהב

FEBRUARY

1981

IN THE SPIRIT OF  
"LET MY PEOPLE GO."



WELCOME HOME  
FORMER HOSTAGES



# from the co-leader

I recently came across a little paperback by James Parkes, an English citizen, entitled, An Enemy of the People: Anti-semitism. Published in 1946, the book's cover proclaims, "Now that the Nazis have been defeated, why is it that some of their most insidious propaganda exists? In this book, a non-Jew makes a scientific study of the historical, sociological and psychological aspects of antisemitism." The book is not particularly valuable for its insights into the nature of antisemitism. It is, however, interesting as a piece of historical naivete. The first page states: "The best cure for abnormal mental attitudes is to get the patient to understand their cause; once he (sic) realizes what is wrong with himself and why, he is on the road to recovery. Mr. Parkes uses the same technique in analyzing antisemitism, a very real and persistent form of modern sickness...He shows that antisemitism is an enemy of the people--not only of the Jews, but of any hope for a better society."

The rationality and moral logic of Parkes' arguments remind me of the attitude prevalent in the Black civil rights movement, the ecology movement, and the women's movement of the sixties and early seventies. The inherent rightness of our positions made many of us feel that it was just a matter of time before others agreed with us. In the same way, certainly any individual who understands that Jews are human beings cannot remain an antisemite.

The problem with this argument is that it is rational. Prejudice is not rational. When life goes well for people, they can afford to be more openminded. When people are threatened, they frequently turn to the irrationality of scape-goating. Because of the faltering economy, Americans have once again begun their search for scapegoats. Rather than progressing inexorably toward the Messianic Age (as I thought we were in the seventies), history has proven cyclical. Times are sometimes good for the Jews, and sometimes they're not so good. (And, of course, the same applies to all other oppressed groups.)

It will be interesting to watch what the next few years will bring us. On one hand, our fight for our rights is no longer a fait accompli, as it seemed at one time. On the other hand, we have been shocked out of our complacency. No longer can we rest on the laurels of our moral correctness. We have been given a new impetus to fight, and have been reminded that if the Messianic Age is to come, it will come only through our efforts. And so what if suddenly it's not an easy time to bring the Messiah; after all, "If not now, when?"

2 Shalom. Laurie



There are those who say that Northern California is the capitol of the human potential movement. That often clashes with another reality which I see around me so often in San Francisco: derelicts who are so down and out that everything looks like up to them, people who seem to be disasters waiting to happen, those who didn't or couldn't make it anywhere else and who have come to what is truly the last frontier. I sometimes wonder why we don't see more of them on our doorstep, since we are open to all.

But more than anything else I take to heart the idea that we at Sha'ar Zahav are what the human potential movement is really all about. Many of the people who join us each week or join us as supporting members are those who are finding that they are able to reach new heights of personal need fulfillment through our synagogue, more often and in more ways than they were ever able to do in the cities from which they came. Many of these people are rediscovering how important a serious Jewish identification is or has become in their lives, and have discovered at the same time that Sha'ar Zahav, while firmly established on principles which are Jewish, is not dogmatic nor demanding of those who choose to cast their lot with us. Our congregation tries to be sensitive to the needs and desires of its members in ways in which, we are told, needs were not met in other settings.

Primary among these needs are spiritual and social ones, two of the most important foci of our synagogue. We constantly try to improve our offerings in these areas, and we will continue to do so. But we are often hampered in our efforts because of insufficient volunteer help in getting things done. From my point of view, there is no way a synagogue can survive, let alone grow, without ongoing and active volunteer support. I say this in the knowledge that all too often we wait for people to come to us to volunteer, without our having reached out to them first. Hopefully this will change rapidly as we become aware of how to better serve our congregation. In the meantime, the one thing I, as your rabbi, cherish, over and above your membership, qua membership, is your active involvement. Please help me to help you become more actively involved in our joint venture, and thus to make your synagogue into the congregation you want it to be.



## Sha'ar Zahav Extended Family Seders for the Second Night of Pesach

Sha'ar Zahav's Community Seder will be held on the second night of Pesach, Sunday, April 19. For the first night of Pesach, I would like to suggest that small groups of people might like to get together in homes of members of the Shul for Seder, as was done for the highly successful Havdallah dinners during the Fifth International Conference. Pesach is a family time, so why not share it with members of our extended family from Sha'ar Zahav, in a family setting.

If people volunteer to share in the participation of the Seders, such as providing a home in which to hold the Seder, all or parts of the dinner, the ritual items and food, Hagaddot, leading the Seder, providing a gift for the lucky person who finds the Afikoman, or organizing these elements for the particular Seder, no one person will have to do too much preparation.

In order to transform this idea into reality, I have volunteered to coordinate this extended family Seder observance. I will provide more details in the next Gaily Forward, as well as a form that can be mailed to me for those members and non-members of Sha'ar Zahav who are interested in participating.

If any of you out there would like to assist in organizing this undertaking, which would involve spending a couple of hours helping me match up groups of people into Seder Families, based upon the forms that are sent in, please let me know (861-4045).

Shalom,

*Pete*

Pete Tannen



A SAIL-BOAT ON THE  
DEAD SEA



From the Editor

In our continuing efforts to improve the Forward we are initiating certain new production procedures.

Linda has been appointed Assistant Editor. Her primary responsibility will be proofreading all submitted articles. Therefore we request that all articles be double-spaced and typed. After proofreading, the articles will be retyped to conform to the Forward format.

We suggest that when writing an article for publication you kindly use more paragraphs, as it is easier on our readers' eyes. It is also a fact of human nature that the longer the article, the less chance it will have of being read.

Your articles that are mailed to our P.O. Box 5640 must be marked, Attention: Linda.

The deadline of the 10th of each month is the deadline.

Your cooperation is needed if we are to constantly move the Forward forward.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH !!!

We wish to acknowledge all the non-members who sent back the return cards included with the December and January issues of the Forward.

You will continue to receive the Forward monthly.

Your efforts to let us know that the Forward is meaningful to you fills us with gratitude.

Many thanks to all those persons who made contributions to the Forward. This was unexpected and your confidence in us is extremely rewarding.

Thank you all again for your kind words, contributions, and interest.

Shalom, *Bryan*

Bryan Taylor, Chair  
Newsletter Committee



## Va'ad Briefing

At the January meeting the Va'ad passed the recommendation to join the Mikva Society. See "New Community Mikva" article in this issue.

Isabel Auerbach, a health field specialist, presented a plan to work with the individual members of the Va'ad to achieve greater group effectiveness. It was agreed to cooperate with her plan and to take her considerations under advisement.

Our new Treasurer, Irene Ogus, presented synagogue financial charts and graphs which showed a positive financial condition for Sha'ar Zahav. Upon Irene's recommendation, the Va'ad approved the creation and filling of the new position of Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary will assist the Treasurer with check deposits, bank statements, dues notices, and other non-analytical work. See "Help Wanted" ad in this issue.

Publicity Chair, Cathy Nelson, presented a report detailing a comprehensive publicity campaign.

Paul Cohen, Building Chair, and Bob Levy, Finance Chair, stated that they are reconsidering the expenditure of \$5,000 raised from members and donors on a fund-raising feasibility study.

Membership Chair, Leila Raim, reported that Sam Thal, Bikur Cholim Chair, had proposed a by-law change regarding dues structure. As long as the by-laws are currently being considered for revision, the recommendation has been referred to the Revision Committee.

Aaron Cooper, Program Chair, presented a proposal on conducting family workshops for Jewish lesbians, gay men, and their families. The objective of the workshops is family reconciliation and understanding.

Rabbi Allen Bennett and Ritual Chair Steven Fritsch Rudser discussed the meetings of the Va'ad with Rabbi Morris Herschmann of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and Reconstructionist Rabbi David Koppstein. Because of their resources and support, Steven recommended that the Va'ad apply for membership in the UAHC on behalf of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. It was approved.

David Ben-Jacob, Oneg Chair, announced that the congregation Passover Seder is going to be held the second night of Pesach, Sunday April 19, at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn, Pine and Van Ness, San Francisco. The reservation form will be in the March and April issues of



1. Forward. Steven Fritsch Rudser added that the Haggadah is being completely revised and will be printed in time for the Seder.

Bryan Taylor, Newsletter Chair, suggested that Va'ad meetings be time-structured to provide a balance for committee reports, old and new business, and presentations. Bryan reported that we have received over 100 return cards from non-members stating their desire to continue receiving the Forward. Many return cards were stamped by the senders and were accompanied by donation checks.

We thanked Recorder Shelley Fernandez for the use of her home for the Va'ad meeting.

## MAZEL TOV! CARY

The Bat Mitzvah of Cary Kandel on January 23 was beautiful, moving, and encouraging. Our first Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav was an inspiration to others to participate in this ritual commitment to our Jewish faith.



### Milk Film

Producer Jerry B. Wheeler is preparing to film the life story of the late San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk. The film is tentatively titled "The Mayor of Castro Street".

The producer's main interest in this story is based on the urgent needs of the gay community to have a strong, positive representation in the media. Wheeler, who is openly gay, states that he needs information, photos, or anecdotes about Harvey Milk.

Please contact Jerry B. Wheeler Productions, 9056 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 201, Los Angeles CA 90069.



## New Community Mikva

The new community mikva, 3355 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, is now completed. Rabbi Jacob Traub, Chair of the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of San Francisco, has invited all Jews to support the mikva through individual memberships. Rabbi Traub contacted Rabbi Allen Bennett to encourage members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav to participate in the Mikva Society, and to take advantage of the new ritual bath.

At the January meeting, the Va'ad of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav voted to support the Mikva Society by taking out an institutional membership. Individual memberships are \$10 per year. Send your check to the Mikva Society, 3355 Sacramento St., San Francisco CA 94118. Sending this check is a mikva mitzvah.

## *LET OUR PEOPLE GO!*

*As we were going to press our 52 American hostages were set free. This is a time of great gratitude for all of us.*

*As Gay and Lesbian Jews we too know the feelings of bondage. We too know that to be denied our full self-expression is to be held hostage within ourselves. We've all experienced that painful moment, that hour, or that lifetime when we are less than free to be what we are.*

*We welcome home our former hostages. May their inspiration encourage us to work for the day when we are no longer held hostage, either physically or mentally.*

*Shalom,  
Bryan Taylor,  
Editor*



# passover seder

Mark your calendars! Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's annual Seder will be held on the second night of Passover, Sunday, April 19, at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn, Pine and Van Ness, San Francisco. Please watch the March and April issues of the Forward for further details and reservation forms.



*An Italian ghetto. This one is in Rome. There are many ideas about the origin of the word 'ghetto.' One is that in 1516 the Jews of Venice were forced to live in an area of the city called 'the Foundry' or 'ghetto.' Later, the word came to be used all over Europe for any area set aside for, or filled by Jews*

## Remember!

Our remember column is dedicated to remembering the suffering of the Jewish people throughout our history.

History is just as close as the past minute. During the past month we have seen the ugly hand of anti-semitism at work again.

Rube's is a delightful restaurant nestled in the tranquility of Sonora. Last month an arsonist struck.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies was defaced. Nazis in uniform paraded through the exhibits in an outrageous display of arrogant hatred.

Also in Los Angeles, a Jewish cemetery was desecrated with vile graffiti.

These are but three incidents out of how many? How many more to come?

Jewish unity is our strength and our salvation. Isolated, our power is mute, but together we can create a sound loud enough to let the world know we are not going to take it anymore!



## The First Annual Jewish Feminist Women's Conference

The Seattle area is hosting the First Annual Jewish Feminist Women's Conference, March 13 and 14. The theme of the conference is Jewish affirmation and changing the traditional stereotyped images of Jewish women in our communities and in society at large.

The workshops will include such topics as Defining Feminist Judaism, Coming Out as a Jew, Jewish Lesbians, and Jewish Women's Experiences.

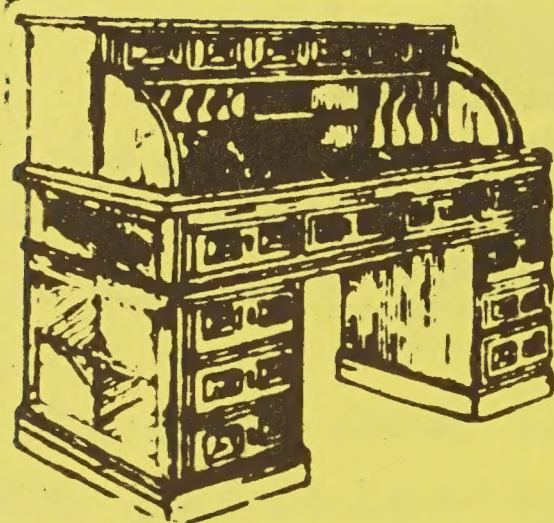
For more information, please contact:

Jewish Feminist Women's Conference  
1732 14th Ave.  
Seattle WA 98122

### HELP WANTED

#### \$\$ FINANCIAL SECRETARY \$\$

Rewarding volunteer position now available with Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Assist our over-worked Treasurer with check deposits, bank statements, dues notices, and other non-analytical duties. Call Irene Ogus, Treasurer, at 824-7031 for an appointment now.



### Mazel Tov, Seattle!

This past Chanukah witnessed the birth of the Seattle Gay Synagogue. We, of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, extend our love and support.

Sha'ar Zahav recently sent prayer books, newsletters, and other materials to assist the Seattle gay congregation in getting started.

We urge all Seattle gay Jews to offer their enthusiasm and participation in this rewarding undertaking by contacting Alan Sachs, 516 Bellevue Ave. East, #302, Seattle WA 98102, or calling evenings at (206) 325-1414.



# bits & pieces

## HOT LINE

For the latest news from Israel, call the Israel Hot Line at 392-NEWS.

## Active? Should Be?

Gay and Lesbian Jews at San Francisco State interested in getting together for group discussion and planning activities, please contact Danny at 239-5004.



## women's chavurah

Tired of the same old potlucks and Havdalahs? Want more stimulation and excitement from the women's chavurah? The February chavurah will be devoted to making new plans and determining a new direction for ourselves. Would you like to go hiking? See a play? Hear a good speaker? What are your preferences?

We will meet for one more potluck Havdalah (maybe the last?) February 28, 6 p.m. at Linda's. Remember, if there's to be any positive change, WE NEED YOUR INPUT. For more information call 763-2873.



# purim festival

## PURIM HOOHAH

The Megillah's about to be read,  
Hamentaschen you're sure to be fed,  
In costume you'll be  
To enter for free  
Or shalach munos\* we'll charge you instead.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's annual Megillah reading and Purim festivities will be held Thursday, March 19, 8:15 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center. Even though we'll probably be able to tell Mordecai from Haman, hopefully we won't be able to identify anyone else. Join us for this zany and gay celebration.

\*Shalach munos: literally, to send presents; a Purim tradition of taking or sending gifts of sweet foods to friends and relatives and of tzedakah to the poor.

PURIM



פּוּרִים

"The Jews had light and gladness  
and joy and honour"



## JANUARY ONEGS

- January 2: By the Oneg Committee in honor of the anonymous donor of the Chagall 12 Tribes of Israel needlepoint panels.
- January 9: By Alan Schrager for the enjoyment of the Congregation.
- January 16: By Dr. A. G. Beauregard Lowell IV in honor of Bernard Pechter.
- January 23: By Helen Abraham in honor of her daughter, Cary Kandel, and the occasion of Cary's Bat Mitzvah.
- January 30: By the members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in honor of Carol Ruth Silver.

### SPREAD JOY - - - SPONSOR AN ONEG

In today's inflationary world the cost of hosting a party for 50 or 60 people can be truly prohibitive. Therefore, it is a real joy to know that sponsoring an Oneg is relatively inexpensive.

Over the past months it has been basically the same individuals who sponsor Onegs. We thank them for their willingness to sustain our Friday night Shabbat Onegs. God thanks them too, as it is a mitzvah.

However, as we are striving to have more people participate in the life of our synagogue, we now ask you to share in the joys of Oneg sponsorship.

Every year we have dates to remember, so please reserve your Oneg space in advance of your chosen date. You will be reminded in advance of your date by the Oneg Committee. Please call me at Sha'ar Zahav and leave a message. I'll return your call as soon as possible.

Shalom,  
*David*  
David Ben-Jacob  
Oneg Chair



# ritual calendar

Friday, February 6

Torah Terumah  
Exodus 25:1 - 27:19  
Haftorah  
I Kings 5:26 - 6:13  
Lou Greene, Services

Friday, February 13

Torah Tetzavveh  
Exodus 27:20 - 30:10  
Haftorah  
Ezekiel 43:10-27  
Rabbi Bennett, Services

Friday, February 20

Torah Ki-Tissa  
Exodus 30:11 - 34:35  
Haftorah  
I Kings 18:1-39  
Steven Fritsch Rudser,  
Services; Dana Vinicoff,  
Sermon

Friday, February 27

Torah Va-Yakhel  
Exodus 35:1 - 38:20  
Haftorah  
I Kings 7:40-50  
Rabbi Bennett, Services





# yahrzeits

Lillette Katz(Wilkes),  
mother of Shelley Fernandez, 2/7

Dora Esther Rifkin,  
mother of Herman Rifkin, 2/18

J.S. Sinai,  
grandfather of Anthony Moore, 2/25

Max Raim,  
father of Leila Raim, 6 Adar

Joseph M Cohen,  
father of Paul Cohen, 16 Adar

Phyllis Litman,  
sister of Aaron Jacksin, 17 Adar



# donations

Marie Winston  
Lew Winston  
Kenneth Zwerin  
Sara Sunstein  
Dr. A.G. Beauregard Lowell IV



# birthdays

Robert Bienstock	2/2
David Gass	2/3
Theodore Levi	2/6
Robert Stern	2/11
Irene Ugus	2/14
Ron Wolberg	2/14
Herman Siegel	2/15
Todd Dyson	2/23
Hal Heller	2/23
Earl Diskin	2/25
David Greenstone	2/25
Ronn Charles	2/26
Ben Marcus	2/26
Leila Raim	2/27



## congregation sha'ar zahav

Post Office Box 5640  
San Francisco, CA 94101  
(415) 621-2871

CHANGE OF ADDRESS	
<p>If you're moving, please allow six weeks for processing time.</p>	<p>Attach current address label here.</p>
<p><b>NEW ADDRESS:</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____</p>	<p>Mail to:</p> <p>Sha'ar Zahav</p> <p>P.O. Box 5640</p> <p>S.F. CA 94101</p>

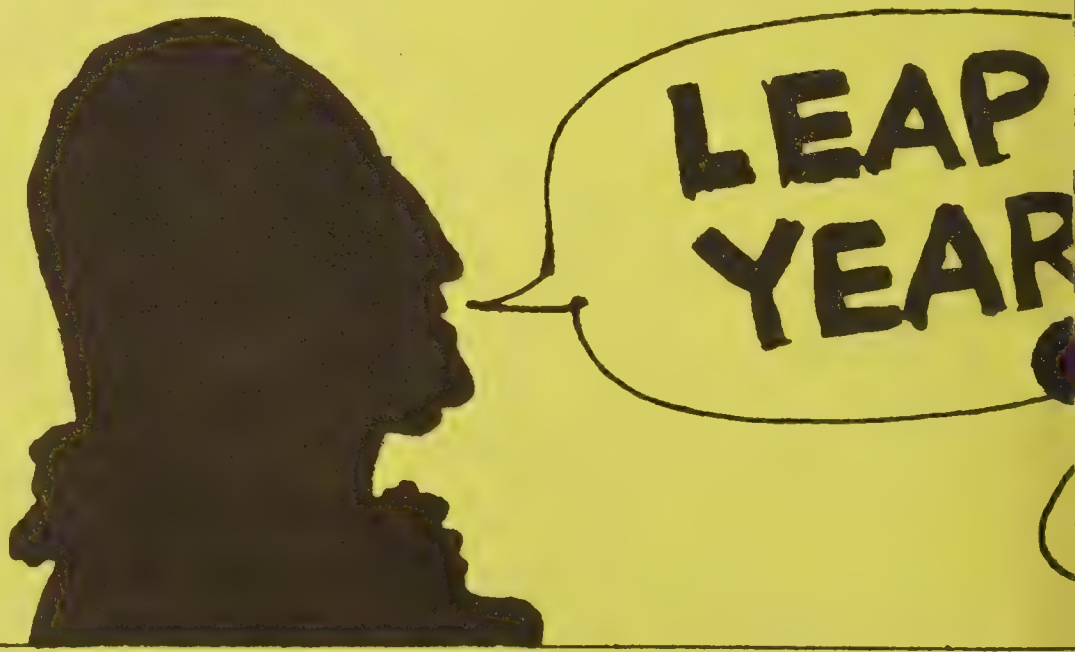







FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	W
1	2	3	Rosh Adar
כז	כח	כט	ל
VAAD MEETING 8 10 A.M. AT IRENE'S	9	NEWSPLETTER DEADLINE 10	
ד	ה	ו	ז
15	16 Washington's Birthday	17	
יא	יב	יג	יד
22	23	24	
יח	יט	כ	כא





# שבט אדר א'

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 Rosh Hodesh	5 Rosh Hodesh Adar I 	6 SHABBAT SERVICES LOU GREENE	7
11	12	13 SHABBAT SERVICES RABBI BENNETT	14
18	19	20 SHABBAT SERVICES STEVEN RUDSER FAITSH & DANA TU VINICOFF SERMON	21
25	26 SHABBAT SERVICES RABBI BENNETT	27 WOMEN'S CHAVURAT AT LINDA'S	28





SHA'AR ZAHAV  
EDUCATION PROGRAM  
REGISTRATION FORM

The Education Committee of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is offering an exciting program of classes beginning in February. There is a minimal fee for the courses (\$5.00 for members, and \$10.00 for non-members).

There is no limit to the number of classes you may register for.

If you are interested in taking one or more of the classes listed below, please check the appropriate boxes and send your check payable to:

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav-Ed. Comm.

P.O. Box 5640

San Francisco, CA 94101

Specific times for the classes will be established after registration:

1. Beginning Biblical Hebrew  
Rabbi Allen Bennett, Tuesday evenings
2. Advanced Biblical Hebrew  
Rabbi Allen Bennett, Tuesday evenings



4. 20th Century Jewish Philosophers and Philosophies  
Rabbi Allen Bennett, Thursday evenings

5. Genealogy - Tracing Your Jewish Roots  
Peter Tannen

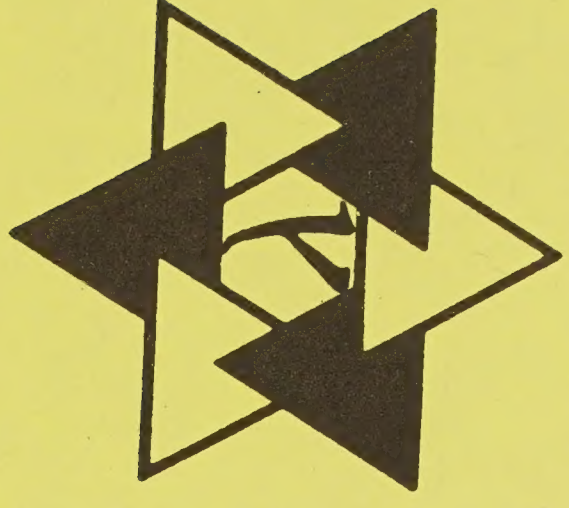
This course will begin in March and will meet  
for 4-5 sessions.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME PREFERRED: \_\_\_\_\_

שער זאנאב  
SHA'AR ZAHAV







WILL  
WILL

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WILL